

TCS-2129-66

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10 March 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant for Photographic Analysis, NPIC
Chief, CIA/Imagery Analysis Division

SUBJECT : Estimating Crop Yields from Satellite Reconnaissance
Imagery

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1. As you are aware, the USIB has approved the following recommendations of [] China Committee:

"CIA proceed apace in seeking to develop techniques which will enable estimates of crop yield to be made from satellite photography."

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2. [] has requested that the Operations Staff coordinate and consolidate your individual views on this subject. In order to come to grips with this problem, please provide me with your answer to the following questions as well as any other comments you may wish to make by COB, 15 March 1966:

a. What type of coverage is currently available on which such estimates may be based? (Is KH 4 coverage adequate to provide such information?)

b. What have you done to date to provide the basic data for making crop estimates?

c. What can you do with existing coverage that has not been done to date?

d. If existing coverage by satellite systems is not satisfactory what are the requirements for improving the collection - in other words what is needed in the future?

[]
Assistant for Operations, NPIC

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